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New NWI Pedestrian Bridge Wins Statewide Honors

Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organization Council names George Lake Pedestrian Bridge connecting Hammond and Whiting an Outstanding Transportation Project for 2012.

Portage, IN (October 18, 2012) – The Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organization Council has named the George Lake Pedestrian Bridge connecting Hammond and Whiting as a 2012 Outstanding Transportation Project.

The award, in the category of Special Design or Construction, was presented October 17 during the Indiana MPO Council's annual conference in Bloomington. It was accepted by John Swanson, Executive Director of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), one of 14 Indiana MPOs which make up the Council. Swanson in turn presented the award to Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. today at NIRPC's board meeting in Portage.

Opened this past spring, the George Lake Pedestrian Bridge joins the lakefront trails of Hammond and Whiting. It forms a critical link in the Marquette Plan's vision for a trail system connecting Northwest Indiana and Chicago. The \$4 million project was funded by a grant from the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA).

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda and www.rdatransformation.com.